

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated October 30, 2003 (paper no. 2), the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-5, and 11 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. patent no. 6,275,681. The Examiner also rejected claims 7, 9, 10, 12, 32, 42-43, 74 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As suggested in the Examiner's Action, the Applicants are filing a Terminal Disclaimer in order to overcome the rejection of the claims under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, which Terminal Disclaimer is attached hereto. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1-2, 4-5, and 11 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. The Applicants believe that the withdrawal of those rejections will also remove the rejections on the rejected dependent claims.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the Applicants contend that this Response, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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